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UNCLAS DUBLIN 000019

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DEPARTMENT FOR TASK FORCE TFX001

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#)

SUBJECT: IRELAND TO ATTEND UNOCHA TSUNAMI DONOR CONFERENCE

REF: A. 04 DUBLIN 1848

[B](#). DUBLIN 4

[C](#). O'SULLIVAN-O'MALLEY E-MAIL OF 1/5/05

[1](#). On January 10, Post delivered reftel talking points to Thomas Brady, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Principal Officer for Consular Operations, who had provided information for refs A and B. Brady noted that Mary Whelan, Irish Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, and Kiera O'Brien, First Secretary of Development Corporation Ireland (DCI, Ireland's

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official aid agency, a division of the DFA), would participate in the January 11 UNOCHA Tsunami Donor Conference in Geneva. Brady said that the Irish Government's assistance pledge for tsunami-affected areas stood at euro 10 million, although Irish NGOs, which have raised over euro 20 million privately, were pressuring the GOI to pledge more. Brady pointed out that Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern and DCI Director General Roland Murphy had toured Phuket on January 9 with a GOI needs assessment team and the heads of the four major Irish aid NGOs: Concern, GOAL, Trocaire, and the Irish Red Cross. The group was scheduled to tour Aceh on January 10 and Sri Lanka the following day.

[2](#). In terms of a consular update, Brady noted that one Irish citizen had been confirmed dead and that three others were presumed dead. Over the weekend of January 7, the number of "urgent cases" involving persons unaccounted for had narrowed from 15 (ref B) to 2. There remained roughly 40 cases in which DFA had received calls about persons who were believed to have been in the countries affected. In only 2 of the cases, however, had family members made the calls. Brady mentioned that FM Ahern had announced the opening of a consular office in Phuket to assist Irish citizens in the area. On January 9, Ahern had also visited a victim identification center in Phuket, where Irish forensics experts were working with Thai authorities on DNA comparisons.
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